

# A' Ibom Community Protests Killing Of Indigenes

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The people of Okoronboko community in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State have cried out over the death of two indigenes in police custody under controversial circumstances.

Lamenting the untimely death of the duo, head of the Ukukarayea family, Chief MacClean Williams Ujile, where the deceased hail from, said the late Ebenezer David and Philip Claudius were very hardworking young men, who

were wrongly arrested by policemen from the state command and taken to the police headquarters.

According to the family head, the police arrested the duo from their homes in the community without any charge on Sunday, April 15, 2007.

Also speaking, elder brother to the late Ebenezer, Mr ThankGod Ubulom, said he learnt of his brother's arrest two days after the incident, and that all efforts to establish contact with him proved abortive. He claimed that the police even attempted to

arrest him for looking for his detained brother.

Ubulom added that when he sought to know his brother's offence, the police could not give him any satisfactory answer.

"To be frank with you, the police was about to arrest us when we went there. Till now that I am talking to you, they (the police) don't want us to see my brother's corpse," he said.

The Port Harcourt-based staff of a government interventionist agency expressed shock at the action of the police, alleging that the police might have tortured him

to death and then concealed his corpse from his family and the community.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the state police command, Mr Suur Chafa, could not be reached for comment on his mobile phone, as several calls did not go through.

Meanwhile, the deceased family and members of the community have resolved to take their case to the highest authority in the land, demanding for an explanation to the death of their indigenes.

They are demanding compensation from the police.